

June 27-37

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The
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

A. G. YOUNT

Minister



Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will show thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.—Deuteronomy, 32:7.



We stop the press, so to speak, to insert a letter from Mr. C.H. Brigham, of Hartford, Conn., in which check for the Organ Fund was enclosed. His many friends will be glad to read it.

"Dear Dr. Yount:

I was interested in what you had to say in the last Bulletin in regard to the needed repairs to the church organ.

As you know, many years ago my Father sang in the church choir and occasionally when Harry Lukens was not present to pump the organ I was permitted to do so.

It seems to me that the only thing lacking in your recent Reunion was the fact that the organ could not be used. My Father was always very much interested in church music and I am very glad to send a small contribution towards the fund which you are starting for the repairs.

Our family all enjoyed the wonderful Reunion which was held last month and I wish to congratulate you upon your success in these annual affairs."

Singed
C.H. Brigham

The check is for \$10.00, and we bespeak the gratitude of a host of friends for the donation and the interesting letter.

From the letter head we see that that Mr. Brigham is the Vice-President of the F.F. Small & Co. General Insurance Agency.

And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw; and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.... 2 Kings, 6:17

"O thou Spirit divine, that art knocking at the door of my heart in all the events of life; help me to respond to thee. I would take the events of my life as good and perfect gifts from thee; I would receive even the sorrows of life as disguised gifts from thee; I would have my heart open at all times to receive—at morning, noon and night; in spring, summer, and winter. Whether thou comest to me in sunshine or in rain, I would take thee into my heart joyfully. Thou art thyself more than the sunshine and rain; It is thee and not thy gifts I crave. Amen

Our summer communion will be on the second Sabbath of July, 11th.

The Children's Day exercises last Sabbath were delightful to the large audience of parents, friends and members of the School. The offering was \$10.86. The Supt. sent \$11.00 to the Sunday School Board.

The Organ Fund

A very gratifying start has been made in raising the money for the repair of the church organ. Up to last Thursday evening the total was over \$50.00., besides several good pledges. So in the first week nearly one half is insight. The firm has reduced the price to \$135.00, this with the extras will amount to not much over \$150.00.

Those who gave \$5.00 are Alvin Renner; Mrs. Ella Pittenger; James Odsted; E.H. DeVoe; Anton Peterson; and Lewis Meese. \$2.00 each were given by Mrs. Edmund Oram Frank Koehn; Dr. Clyde Smith; Philip Beibelberg; and Riddle & Tomer. Mr. W R Bryant \$3.00. Gifts of \$1.00 each, by James Slegel; Lewis Bergenback; Fred Docker; James Doherty Richard Dillman; Harry Wilkinson, etc.

Hillside Cemetery
By Clinton E. Weston

The article by James Thomas regarding the deplorable condition of Hillside Cemetery is timely, and I believe worthy of serious consideration.

Now that the subject has been broached it will no doubt receive a response from many Bulletin readers; but there are perhaps a number who would be interested who who only could be reached by other means of communication. No doubt the names and addresses of those who have plots could be obtained from those who now have charge of the cemetery. In the event of no response to a communication, and unless there is something in the by-laws, or in the deed of the cemetery that would be contrary to such a procedure, I cannot perceive of any one raising an objection to cleaning up and beautifying the place. There are many now who give their plots individual attention that somewhat beautifies the cemetery, but they would look even more beautiful with the suggested improvement.

After receiving an estimate for the work, the problem then becomes a financial one. Suggestions, I assume, are welcome and so I make a tentative one. And that is for some one in Oxford to get estimates for the cleaning up, and these estimates to be submitted to Mr. Yount for publication; after which a meeting can be called to meet at the Presbyterian church, at which time a committee can be appointed to take note of the responses, and also to take up other details; one of which should be for future yearly care.

The lovely location and natural beauty is beyond question, and the matter, I am sure, will appeal to, and have the co-operation of all past and present Oxford residents.

Latest receipts for the Bulletin are \$2.00 each from Mrs. F. B. Taylor; Mrs. W. R. Lewis; Harry Miller; and \$4.00 from Mrs. D. F. Brigham.

In a note Mrs. Brigham by her daughter, Mrs. Bennett, says: We were glad to hear at first hand about the reunion from my brother Clem. and enjoyed reading the account in the Bulletins. "

Repercussions of the Reunion
By George S. Humphrey

There is something unique about the annual gatherings at the Presbyterian Church at Oxford Furnace; the seventh of which has so recently occurred.

It is not unusual that one such meeting of old friends should take place, but that it should be repeated year after year, with increasing interest seems quite extraordinary.

One can imagine that those who, like myself, spent a number of years in Oxford at a time of life when friendships are naturally formed, would enjoy returning to their former home, and again meeting those whom they knew in the old days; but of the attendants at these occasions, the most are the children and even grandchildren of the former residents, many of whom have never seen the place, or else have a very vague recollection of it.

So the question arises, why do we come? The most obvious answer is that Dr. Yount through the Bulletin and otherwise, has created and maintained an interest among the early members of the church, and also by means of the Bulletin, enabled them to keep up a sort of correspondence with one another. In addition to this, "Clint" Weston, by letters, telephone and what not, has kept up a lively interest in the affair and prevented us from forgetting its annual occurrence, and reminded us of the date each year.

And then there is the charm of the beautiful hills, lakes, and sparkling streams of northern New Jersey which appeals alike to those who remember their early days in this delightful region; and those who visit it for the first time. Where is there a more charming drive than over those picturesque roads on a bright day in May?

And yet, there must be something deeper than all this which impels us to come to Oxford once a year, and that creates such a deep sympathy among us

I believe that the motive is fundamentally a spiritual one. The realization of our higher nature, our relation to God, and the reality and importance of religion was so instilled into our minds by Mr. Cline, Mr. Maxwell, and those who followed them, that it became an integral part of our lives,

(over)

and has been transmitted to the second and third generation. The whole atmosphere of Oxford in those early days, fostered not only by those I have mentioned, but by the Scrantons, Kingsburys, Brighams and others whose names will occur to all was religious in a broad sense, including Catholics as well as Protestants. "The promise is to you and your children" has surely been fulfilled among us.

And with that religious spirit goes an appreciation of the fundamentals of civic life; morality, respect for law, regard for the personal rights, liberties and responsibilities of individuals, all which create a forward looking conservatism which is so essential in these days of unrest and uncertainty.

It is in groups like that which gathers at Oxford, that the hope of our country lies. And I think that when those of us who "discern the signs of the times" and are inclined to be pessimistic, meet with such a fine body of citizens, we take courage and feel that after all there is a powerful, quiet element among us people, which will, in due time make itself felt and keep the old "Ship of State" on a safe course, avoiding the rocks and shoals which are all about us.

To my mind, it is the unconscious feeling that when we meet together we are influenced by a common desire to keep the religious and real patriotic principles which were instilled in us, inviolate, and to pass them unimpaired to our children and those who follow them, that draws us, one to another, and creates a spirit of union and common purpose which impels us with irresistible force to attend these impressive anniversaries. May they long continue to be held, as a joy and inspiration to us all!

(Mr. Humphrey in a note to the Editor remarks, "There is something evasive and almost uncanny about these affairs, which I think we all feel, but can't express."

Mr. Wm. F. Hunt writes; "I was glad to be with you, and was and am still deeply impressed with the spiritual quality of the whole gathering."



CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

Elders

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EDWARD T. GREEN

ELISHA B. FOSS
LEWIS BERGENBACK



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<i>Assistant Superintendent</i>	CHRIS SEIPLE
<i>Secretary</i>	ALVIN RENNER
<i>Treasurer</i>	MERRILL FOSS
<i>Organist</i>	MISS RUTH SNYDER
<i>Assistant Organist</i>	MISS ALICE BELL



Ladies' Aid Society

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<i>Vice-President</i>	MRS. BENJAMIN GREEN
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Choir

LeaderMRS. E. T. GREEN

